

Message Text

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53

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EURE-00 IO-13 SS-15 NSC-10 EB-11 OTPE-00

FCC-03 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 PM-07

INR-10 L-03 NEA-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01

TRSE-00 MBFR-03 SAJ-01 RSR-01 /118 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6581

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG

CINCUSAFE/AVON RAMSTEIN

CINCEUR VAIHINGEN

SUNMR SHAPE

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON

USMISSION BERLIN

UNCLAS BONN 10815

BERLIN FOR AMBASSADOR HILLENBRAND

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: PINR, GW

SUBJECT: FRG PRESS SPOKESMAN ON NYT ARTICLE ON US ARMY INTELLIGENCE IN GERMANY

1. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS ABOUT REPORTS THAT THE US ARMY MADE TAPS OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATIONS IN THE FRG WITHOUT THE KNOWLEDGE OF GERMAN OFFICIALS, FRG PRESS SPOKESMAN VON WECHMAR SAID:QUOTE: THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT CANNOT MAKE ANY STATEMENTS ON THIS AT THE PRESENT TIME. FURTHERMORE, I DO NOT THINK THAT IT WILL MAKE ANY STATEMENTS AT A LATER TIME, BECAUSE I HAVE TO BRING TO YOUR RECOLLECTION THE LEGAL SITUATION UPON WHICH THE LAW RESTRICTING THE PRIVACY OF MAIL, POST AND TELEGRAPHIC COMMUNICATIONS IS BASED. IT WOULD CERTAINLY BE IN CONTRADICTION TO THE SUBSTANCE

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AND THE SENSE OF THIS LAW, IF NOW OR AT A LATER TIME THE PUBLIC

WOULD BE INFORMED ABOUT SUCH DETAILS. THEREWITH I DO NOT WANT TO COMMENT AT THE MOMENT ON THIS MATTER. UNQUOTE.

2. THE SPOKESMAN ALSO EMPHASIZED STUDY OF THE CURRENT PROBLEM BY LAENDER OR FEDERAL AUTHORITIES HAD NOT YET BEEN COMPLETED. THE SPOKESMAN POINTED TO THE FACT THAT THIS WAS A MATTER INVOLVING TWO LEGAL SYSTEMS, THE GERMAN AND THAT OF ONE OF THE ALLIES. A DIFFERENCE WOULD HAVE TO BE NOTED DEPENDING ON WHETHER THE ALLIED FORCES HAVE THEIR OWN INVESTIGATION SERVICE ACTIVE IN THIS CASE-THEN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT BE IN A POSITION TO INSTITUTE A RE-INVESTIGATION- OR WHETHER IT WOULD BE IN THE SCOPE OF THE FEDERAL POST-AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES. VON WECHMAR IRONICALLY NOTED THAT THIS WHOLE MATTER WOULD PROBABLY BE THE SUBJECT OF QUESTIONS AT FUTURE PRESS CONFERENCES. HILLENBRAND

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TAGS: PINR
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